

S/N 10/597660

In response to the Office Action dated November 13, 2009

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 6 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3, 8 and 16 have been amended to include the features of claims 1, 6 and 14, respectively. Claims 2, 7 and 15 have been amended and are supported in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0042-0043]. No new matter is added.

**35 USC § 102 Rejections**

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cameron et al. (JP 2002-282251). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 2 is directed to an examiner-side apparatus having a communication line interface that receives, during a live mode, an ultrasonic image data in real time that is transmitted via a communication line and requests, after freezing, a communication line interface of the subject-side apparatus to retransmit a frame to be reproduced via the communication line, every time when moving a pointer that designates the frame to be reproduced from a cine memory that sequentially stores an ultrasonic signal received by an ultrasonic wave transmission/reception portion of the subject-side apparatus per each frame.

Independent claim 7 is directed to an examiner-side apparatus having a communication line interface that receives, during a live mode, an image data in real time that is transmitted via a communication line, and receives, after freezing, a frame that is retransmitted from a communication line interface of the subject-side apparatus via the communication line.

Independent claim 15 is directed to an examiner-side apparatus having a communication line interface that receives, during a live mode, an image data in real time that is transmitted via a communication line, and requests, after freezing, a communication line interface of the subject-side apparatus to retransmit a frame to be reproduced via the communication line, every time when moving a pointer that

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designates the frame to be reproduced from a cine memory that sequentially stores an ultrasonic signal received by an ultrasonic wave transmission/reception portion of the subject-side apparatus per each frame.

Cameron discloses receiving digital image data via a network. In Cameron, the apparatus includes a host computer 30 that corresponds to the examiner-side apparatus. The rejection contends that Cameron discloses a communication line interface similar to that of the present invention. However, Cameron fails to teach that the examiner-side apparatus (a receiving TCP/IP network connection 26 or the host computer 30) requests, after freezing, the subject-side apparatus to retransmit a frame.

Even if the rejection is correct in interpreting Cameron as disclosing that the subject-side apparatus requests the retransmission of a frame via the communication line, it is only based on a function of communication with TCP/IP. Therefore, such an operation is performed during a live mode for receiving ultrasonic image data in real time (para. [0026]). In other words, the use of TCP/IP does not mean that the examiner-side apparatus requests the subject-side apparatus to retransmit a frame after freezing, as required by the claims.

Further, with respect to the subject-side apparatus, the rejection contends that Cameron discloses a communication line interface that reproduces, from the cine memory, the frame that is requested to be retransmitted by the examiner-side apparatus via the communication line (para. 0003-0004)). However, Cameron does not mention that the frame is retransmitted in response to a request by the examiner-side apparatus, as required by the claims. According to the reference, reproduction of a frame from a cine memory is operated within the subject-side apparatus after freezing. Thus, Cameron does not refer to the retransmission of the frame to the examiner-side apparatus via the communication line after freezing.

Cameron does not teach that the examiner-side apparatus requests the subject-side apparatus to retransmit a frame, every time a pointer that designates the frame to be reproduced is moved as required in claims 2 and 15. Therefore, Cameron does not retransmit a frame and frames can be missing from the ultrasonic image data received by the examiner-side apparatus.

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According to the features of the present invention, where retransmission is requested after freezing, while it is not requested in a live mode, it is possible to use a communication protocol suitable for transmitting the ultrasonic image in a live mode in real time, such as User Datagram Protocol (UDP), where retransmission is not performed. Therefore, some frames should be missing from the ultrasonic image data received by the examiner-side apparatus, and due to the features of the present invention, this is not problematic for a live mode since ultrasonic image data stored in the examiner-side apparatus are not used in a frozen mode, but frame data retransmitted from the subject-side apparatus is used. In a frozen mode, even if the communication is performed with a line and a protocol used for a live mode, one frame of the image data requested to perform frame reproduction can be transmitted/received. On the other hand, when performing frame reproduction by the cine-memory function after freezing, the lack of a frame is to be avoided.

Thus, with the features of the present invention, both in a live mode and a frozen mode, the examiner-side apparatus receives ultrasonic image data more suitably than Cameron. Therefore, Cameron does not teach or suggest the features of claims 2, 7 and 15 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

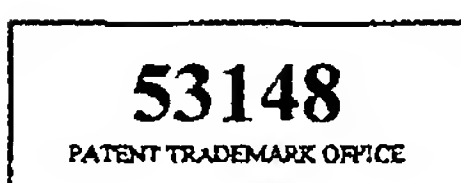
The rejection of claims 1, 6 and 14 are moot due in view of the cancellation of the claims. Claims 3, 8 and 16 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 2, 7 and 15, respectively. The rejections of these dependent claims should be withdrawn. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

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Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



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Respectfully submitted,

HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER &  
LARSON, P.C.  
P.O. Box 2902  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0902  
(612) 455-3800

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM/llf